MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 SEPTEMBER 1982

Lebanon-PLO

Ambush, Violations in Eastern Lebanon -- Brig Gen Sa'd Sayil, commander of the Palestinian-Lebanese Joint Forces and member of Fatah's Central Committee, was killed in an ambush by unknown gunmen during an inspection tour of PLO positions in Ba'labakk, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported citing WAFA.

Jerusalem radio said the "terrorists" violated the cease-fire by firing at IDF positions near 'Ammiq and Yanta in the southern Al-Biqa'.

Beirut Situation -- The third contingent of French troops and the second contingent of Italian soldiers disembarked at Beirut port on 27 September, Beirut radio reported. French and Italian units were deployed in and around the Palestinian refugee camps in preparation for the comprehensive deployment of the multinational force as soon as the Israelis withdraw and the U.S. contingent arrives, the radio said. Citing Israeli Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan, Jerusalem radio said the IDF will leave Beirut port on 28 September but that according to an agreement with the Lebanese Army several IDF soldiers will remain at the airport. Eytan explained that the IDF needs the airport as long as it is deployed in Lebanon. The radio had said earlier that the IDF would evacuate the airport and deploy along a new line to the south.

Israel is coordinating its withdrawal with the Lebanese Army but is not participating in meetings with the multinational force representatives, Jerusalem radio noted. President Amin al-Jumayyil chaired a 27 September meeting of the multinational force liaison committee, which comprises U.S., French, Italian and Lebanese officers, according to Beirut radio.

Continuing its deployment in West Beirut, the Lebanese Army searched for suspected criminals and people carrying false identity papers, Radio Free Lebanon reported. The army also raided arms depots and printing presses, arresting a number of people, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. AFP reported earlier that the army arrested nearly 300 foreigners and expelled another 346 considered to be "undesirables" in a cleanup operation on 26 September.

'Arafat Interview -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said in a CBS television interview that he is ready to hold a dialogue with the United States without preconditions and that he is also ready to begin negotiations on the establishment of a Palestinian homeland with all democratic Jews inside and outside Israel, Monte Carlo radio reported.

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Speech -- The Arabs will henceforth move in accordance with the Fes summit decisions and ensure their implementation, Saudi King Fahd told pilgrims in a speech transmitted by SPA. The Islamic nation should extend full financial, political and military support to the PLO, he said, and should take practical economic action to rebuild and reconstruct Lebanon. King Fahd also called for a speedy end to the Iran-Iraq war, urged the Soviet leaders to take into consideration the Islamic world's feelings on the Afghanistan issue and denounced the recrudescence of peripheral conflicts in the Muslim world.

Relations With PLO -- Information Minister Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani denied a reported claim by Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf that Saudi Arabia gave "guarantees and undertakings" to the Palestinian fighters prior to their departure from Lebanon, SPA reported. However, a Palestinian source subsequently issued a statement carried by SPA affirming that Khalaf's remarks were inaccurately reported by news agencies, thereby creating the false impression that Khalaf was criticizing Saudi Arabia.

Israel

Other Phalangist Operations Permitted -- IDF sources cited by Jerusalem radio expressed fear that if an inquiry commission is set up to investigate the Beirut massacres, it will put the blame on the IDF and absolve the political level. The sources pointed out that the Beirut incident was not the first time political levels had instructed the IDF to allow Phalangists into an area. Citing examples, the sources said the IDF was instructed to allow Phalangists into Druze villages in Lebanon, which resulted in revenge killings.

New Civilian Administration Head -- Yig'al Karmon was appointed head of the civilian administration to replace Menahem Milson until a permanent replacement is appointed, Jerusalem radio reported.

Iraq

President Saddam Husayn told British papers that the Soviet Union has resumed arms sales to Iraq, Monte Carlo radio said.

Afghanistan

Delivering a speech on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha, President Babrak Karmal claimed that Afghan forces have dealt fatal blows to "counterrevolutionary bands" in the country. He asserted that most of these groups have realized that their efforts are in vain and said many Afghan refugees are returning to the country. He reminded those who had opposed the government that they may return to their homes free from punishment under the 1981 amnesty decree.

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KARMAL SPEECH TO NATION ON AMNESTY, LEBANON

LD272042 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Sep 82

[Speech by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha -- place not given -- live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Toiling and faithful compatriots: Allow me to offer my most sincere congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha, on behalf of myself and on behalf of the party and state leadership of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to you, the noble and Muslim people of beloved Afghanistan and to all toiling Muslims of the world, and to wish for the prosperity and happiness of all Islamic countries and Muslim people.

Sister and brother compatriots: As I have said previously, the celebration of 'Id al-Adha in our country is a mark of the deep faith and great interest of our faithful and toiling people in the great struggle on the path of justice and for the homeland, for the defense of peace, tranquillity, justice, prosperity and happiness.

This is especially important under present conditions when our homeland and our noble compatriots greatly need peace, solidarity and fraternal understanding. This is very important and vital so that we can pursue the construction of a new and just life in our ancient and proud homeland in unity.

The principles and teachings of the sacred religion of Islam ask all Muslims to work and live with one another in peace and tranquillity for the construction of their country and people. Your revolutionary state, with its truly humane thinking and profound belief in the great aspirations of humanity, will not spare any force and effort to maintain an atmosphere of peace, security, prosperity and tranquillity in the country.

In pursuing this humanitarian and progressive policy, our state and party has pursued the establishment of peace in the dear homeland. Fortunately, during the current year we have achieved great successes in this regard. As a result of the heroism and self-sacrifice of our proud armed forces, of party members, of the democratic youth of Afghanistan and of the toiling armed people in the resistance groups and the revolution defense groups, we have dealt shattering and fatal blows to the counterrevolutionary bands. The decisive majority of the counterrevolutionary bands have discovered that their actions are in vain and that the counterrevolutionary bands residing outside the country are faced with our compatriots who had been deceived by the enemy but who are now returning home is increasing. Those who had been hostile to their government have realized the truth about life in our society and about the policies of the party and government. They are also laying down their weapons and helping and cooperating with the government in peaceful work.

We once again declare that being aware of the conditions surrounding our deceived compatriots our popular state invites all of them to return to their homes to work and live peacefully. The decree of amnesty dated 18 June 1981 is still in force and is a guarantee for those of our compatriots who want to lay down their arms and cooperate with their government. According to this decree, these people will not only not be punished but all their rights and freedoms as equal citizens will be honored and protected.

Dear compatriots: Recently, the people of the world bore witness to the shameless crimes of the Israeli Zionists against Lebanon. The news of the criminal action of the [words indistinct] which resulted in the massacre of a total of 1,800 Palestinian women, old men and children, shook the conscience of progressive mankind and of all noble men. This event once again shows that aggressors should not be allowed to have freedom of action. The (?criminal) Zionist appetite must be subdued.

Responsibility for this shameless and inhuman action also rests on the shoulders of the U.S. imperialists who, by supplying weapons and aid, have rendered the Israelis capable of aggression and trampling the rights of the Palestinian Arabs and other Arab peoples. We fully support the Arab demand that U.S. aid to Israel be stopped immediately and that Israel be suspended from the United Nations. Furthermore, we consider the six-point Soviet initiative as the only just solution to the Middle East conflict. The legitimate rights of the people of Palestine, including the establishment of their independent state, is the key to the solution of the Middle East crisis.

Once again, we express our militant and revolutionary solidarity with the fraternal people of Palestine and Lebanon, and we demand the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. We strongly condemn all criminal and inhuman actions by the Zionists and their American protectors.

In conclusion, I once again congratulate you on the arrival of the auspicious 'Id al-Adha. Greetings to all compatriots and all Muslims of the world, in particular the Pashtun and Baluchi brothers and the fraternal people of Asia, Iran and Pakistan. I wish them prosperity, progress and happiness.

PDPA DAILY CHARGES U.S. USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

LD262324 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Sep 82

[Excerpt] The PDPA Central Committee daily, HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR, carried a commentary yesterday, entitled "Reagan's Chemical Warfare Program," which is presented to our listeners.

In the past, the United States has used thousands of tons of poisonous weapons against the people of the world, and even now is preparing for this kind of war. The people of the world know the facts that support this claim.

Some time ago, during the period when the bands sent in from outside were being crushed, chemical weapons manufactured in the United States were captured in Bamian Province by the DRA Armed Forces. The following was written on these weapons: Before using, familiarize yourself with the instructions in the enclosed envelope. Any violations of these instructions and recommendations from the U.S. Chemical Department [as heard] will have grave consequences.

The SRV representative in the UN General Assembly has submitted documents to that organization proving the use of large quantities of chemical weapons against the civilian population and their agriculture in the aggressive U.S. war against Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos. The documents reveal that in the southern province of Vietnam, the United States used 100,000 tons of poisonous material -- in other words, 3 kg per person.

KARACHI: CHEMICAL WEAPONS USED IN LOWGAR

BK270626 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 27 Sep 82

[Text] According to reports, foreign troops in Afghanistan have again used chemical gas against the Afghan mujahidin in Lowgar Province, resulting in the deaths of more than seven people. Diplomatic sources say that many villages in Baghlan Province have suffered heavy losses due to bombing by Karmal regime and Soviet troops.

HAQ INTERVIEWED ON FOREIGN, DOMESTIC ISSUES

BK260500 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Sep 82 pp 5, 6

[Interview granted by President Ziaul Haq to The Chongkhadikit, editor in chief of the BANGKOK POST -- date and place not given]

[Text] The: Pakistan occupies a position of great strategic significance in the South Asian region. May I seek your views on the security concerns of this region, particularly those of Pakistan in the context of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan? What in your view are the Soviet objectives in Afghanistan and in South Asia?

Zia: Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan and the continued presence of its forces in that country inevitably brought about a qualitative change in the security environment of the region. It has raised fundamental questions about the very survival of the post-war international order based on principles of non-use of force and non-interference in the internal affairs of states, and has brought new security concerns for states neighbouring Afghanistan. We are convinced that if one great power seeks geo-strategic advantage in this manner it may provoke reaction from the other great power, thus leading to a vicious circle of super power rivalry that would inevitably imperil peace in the region.

As far as Societ objectives are concerned, it has often been argued that these are 'forward strategic' in nature, particularly as the Soviet Union has built military infrastructure and bases in Afghanistan. However, we have to take note of the commitments of Soviet leaders to withdraw Soviet forces from Afghanistan. I can only express the hope that we will be able to arrive at a comprehensive political settlement based on these commitments.

The: We in Thailand perceive a clear link between the Soviet policy in Indochina and its policy in South Asia. Afghanistan and Kampuchea would appear to be the two sides of the same coin. Do you share this perception?

Zia: The Soviet Union and Vietnam intervened militarily in Afghanistan and Kampuchea respectively with a view to determining the outcome of a purely internal conflict. Pakistan has consistently opposed all interference in the affairs of states and defended the inalienable right of each country to order its internal affairs in accordance with its own wishes. Pakistan adheres to its principled stand and hopes that foreign military intervention in both these countries would cease, enabling their people to determine their own political destiny.

The: Afghanistan has been the traditional invasion route to India. The Aryans, the Persians, the Greeks and others marched into India through the Khyber Pass. Would the Soviets follow the same path or would they stop at the Pakistan border? This is of critical importance because of all the invaders of the sub-continent the Soviets would appear to be the most dangerous.

Zia: We naturally hope that they would not only stop at the Pakistan border but withdraw their forces from Afghanistan. As a sovereign country Pakistan would do everything in its power to defend its territorial integrity if it ever came to such an eventuality. However, we remain hopeful that a comprehensive political settlement will be reached which would enable the Soviet Union to withdraw from Afghanistan in accordance with the commitments given at the highest level by Soviet leaders.

The: Thailand and Pakistan are facing a serious refugee problem although the dimension of your problem is much bigger than ours. What are the difficulties being faced by your government in looking after the refugees? What proportion of the economic burden is being shouldered from outside? Do you feel that the approximately three million Afghan refugees would become part of your population or eventually would return to their homeland?

Zia: Provision of sustenance and succour to millions of uprooted Afghan people is a task of gigantic proportions which calls for enormous resources. Despite our own economic constraints we are doing our level best to help the Afghan refugees.

Pakistan is contributing nearly half the amount which is being spent every day on their maintenance and upkeep. However, as the refugee exodus continues, Pakistan would require more assistance and help from friendly countries and international organisations to fulfill its humanitarian obligations.

The Afghan refugees have left their homes to escape untold miseries which have resulted due to continued foreign military intervention. These refugees have expressed their resolve to return to their country once foreign troops are withdrawn and conditions are created for their voluntary return. Therefore, the question of their permanent stay in Pakistan does not arise.

The: May I now invite your attention to Pakistan's relations with its other big neighbour China? What is the climate of relationship between Pakistan and China? How does your government interpret China's long term objectives in this region and their implications for Pakistan? As you would be aware some countries in Southeast Asia harbour serious misgivings over China's long term designs in our area. Does Pakistan entertain any such fears of China and if not for what reasons?

Zia: Pakistan enjoys excellent relations with the People's Republic of China. The climate of this relationship is characterised by complete trust and confidence which has facilitated mutually beneficial cooperation. China, like Pakistan, is against all forms of hegemony. We are convinced that China's policy in South Asia is based on the principles of peaceful co-existence. We are happy that India's relations with China are also moving in a positive direction. China has supported that development of good neighbourly relations and closer cooperation among the countries of South Asia. We welcome China's contribution to the strengthening of peace and stability in this region.

The: In the wake of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan the Americans had offered an aid package which you had very...enlarged military sales and economic aid which was accepted. [sentence as published] Do you consider this assistance to be sufficient to prevent Soviet domination of your country? In this connection let me also invite your attention to the Indo-Soviet treaty which virtually amounts to a defence pact? How does Pakistan propose to balance out this military strategic Indo-Soviet relations in so far as its own security is considered?

Zia: First let me clarify that we are not receiving military assistance from the U.S. We are only purchasing some military equipment from the United States against cash payment and partly on credit obtained at market related interest rates. These modest arms purchases would only help replace some of our obsolete equipment.

The acquisitions would improve our defensive capability to a degree, but would not be adequate by themselves to guarantee our security. On the political plane we would continue efforts to improve our relations with India and to arrive at a political settlement of the Afghanistan problem which would ensure the withdrawal of Soviet forces from that country, so that Pakistan does not face the spectre of a two-front situation, or even a one-front war.

There is no doubt that the Indo-Soviet treaty contains elements that give it a security dimension, i.e. make it a virtual alliance. In recent years India has, however, de-emphasised that aspect and we hope it will revert to a genuinely non-aligned policy. On our part we are determined to contribute towards the improvement of the security environment by maintaining our own defensive strength and by building tension-free relations with neighbours.

The: How do you view the current status of Indo-Pakistan relations particularly with the return of Mrs. Gandhi to power? May I solicit your views on her recent visit to Washington? Would her visit alter the existing co-relation of forces in your region?

Zia: In the light of our continuing dialogue with the Government of India, I view the current status of Indo-Pakistan relations in positive terms, and am hopeful about future prospects.

Last year we proposed to India a non-aggression pact. India has recognized that the conclusion of such a pact will contribute to the peace and security in the region. Containing universally accepted principles of non-use of force or threat of force and resolution of differences exclusively by peaceful means, it will help create a climate of trust and confidence which will facilitate cooperation in various fields. What matters at this stage is that both countries are engaged in a dialogue with a view to improving bilateral relations.

Mrs. Gandhi's recent visit to Washington has helped improve Indo-U.S. relations. We favor friendly relations among all countries, and we expect other countries, too, to observe the principle of bilateralism and not seek to develop their bilateral relations at the expense of relations with Pakistan.

The: One has been hearing a lot about the development of a Pakistan nuclear programme. The public in Southeast Asia would be most interested to hear the views of the president of Pakistan on this important question. Both India and China have nuclear capability. How does Pakistan feel about this?

Zia: Pakistan has a modest programme of research and development in the field of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes which is essential to develop self-sufficiency in energy resources, since it is poor in fossil fuel resources. At the moment Pakistan has one of the lowest levels of energy consumption in the world. With the process of economic and social development the energy requirements of the country are increasing at a very fast rate. Pakistan has been most seriously affected by the increasing prices of oil. Our oil import bill has gone up from $84 million in 1972 (8 percent of foreign exchange earnings) to $1.5 billion in 1981, (60 percent of foreign exchange earnings) and could increase further. Such a large drain on our foreign exchange earnings is bound to retard our development plans and programmes.

If we are unable to develop alternate sources of energy particularly nuclear energy the problems of our economy could become unmanageable, and by 1985 or 1986, we might have to spend our entire export earnings on oil imports.

Fully committed as we are to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy we believe in the right of each state to have access to nuclear technology and to pursue scientific research and development in accordance with its own priorities. We have indicated on a number of occasions that we would be prepared to place our nuclear research and development programme under any safeguard arrangements provided they are applied universally and on a non-discriminatory basis.

We have no intention of acquiring or manufacturing nuclear weapons since we are committed to the concept of non-proliferation. We have supported measures for nuclear non-proliferation at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels. For example we have advocated the establishment of nuclear weapon free zone in South Asia, the de-nuclearization of the Indian Ocean and provision of security assurances to non-nuclear weapon states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. These initiatives enjoy a wide measures of support at the United Nations.

Bilaterally we had proposed a joint declaration by India and Pakistan renouncing the nuclear option, inspection of each other's nuclear installations and the signing of the non-proliferation treaty by both countries. These proposals have not been agreed to by India so far. We hope that in view of India's declared policy of not manufacturing or acquiring nuclear weapons that country will give serious consideration to these ideas.

As regards the nuclear capability of China you know that China made an unconditional pledge long ago not to be the first to use nuclear weapons under any circumstances. As such, non-nuclear weapons states have no cause to have any apprehensions about China's nuclear weapons capability.

The: Almost a decade ago Pakistan decided to sever its ties with the Commonwealth. Is there any likelihood of your rejoining the Commonwealth? If not, may I seek your views on the nature of the future relationship between Pakistan and the Commonwealth?

Zia: We believe that the Commonwealth is a useful organisation at whose gatherings subjects of overall concern to its members and the world community at large are discusaed, which lead to a better appreciation of one another's point of view. Personal rapport, which leaders of the Commonwealth develop on such occasions, is a positive factor in easing tension in the world.

As you are aware, Pakistan is a member of the Organisation of Islamic Conference and the Non-aligned Movement, one of whose objectives is to work for the maintenance of peace and stability in the world. In this way they serve to supplement the efforts of the United Nations. The Commonwealth would provide us with another forum to make our contribution, however small, in this regard. We would, therefore, be happy to resume our membership if invited to do so.

The: Your country has played a vital role in the Islamic world particularly in the latest conflict between Iran and Iraq. May I request your views on this conflict and Pakistan's position with regard to it? I shall also appreciate a word on Pakistan's position on the Middle East problem and what is needed to be done to ensure real and lasting peace in that troubled region?

Zia: Pakistan has been deeply concerned over the continuing Iran-Iraq conflict not only because of the necessity for unity amongst the Muslim states and the developing countries but also because we have deep historical, cultural and religious ties with both of these states.

It is for this reason that Pakistan has played an active role in the peace initiatives of the Islamic Conference, in the first instance in my capacity as its chairman and later as a member of the peace committee. In view of our membership of the Islamic peace committee and friendly relations with Iran and Iraq, Pakistan has adopted a position of strict neutrality in the Iran-Iraq conflict. It has always been and will remain our endeavour within the Islamic peace committee to bring about a just and lasting settlement of this unfortunate conflict. In addition, Pakistan has taken several other initiatives to defuse this unfortunate conflict.

Pakistan's position on the Middle East problem has been consistent. We feel that a just and durable solution can be achieved only by taking into account and satisying the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people. A vital element of such a solution is the restitution of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinians, including the right to a state of their own on Palestinian soil.

The principle of the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by force also needs to be strictly observed in the Middle East region. Israel must be compelled to vacate all the Arab territories that she has under her occupation.

The: What are your views on the role and effectiveness of the Non-aligned Movement and Pakistan's contribution to the promotion of its objectives? Thailand and its ASEAN partners are trying to obtain friendly countries support for allowing Prince Sihanouk, the president of the recently established Khmer coalition, to address the non-aligned summit. Would Pakistan support such a move? In addition would your government continue its policy of support for Democratic Kampuchea now when Sihanouk has assumed its leadership and the influence of the Khmer Rouge has been considerably reduced, at least politically?

Zia: Pakistan is committed to the objectives of the Non-aligned Movement which emphasize non-interference in the internal affairs and safeguarding the territorial integrity and sovereignty of states, economic emancipation of the developing world, decolonisation and peaceful settlement of disputes. Pakistan is totally committed to preserve the non-bloc character of the movement.

But for the positive role played by the Non-aligned Movement, super power rivalry would have been far more acute and the threat to world peace would have increased correspondingly.

We would support the idea of Prince Sihanouk addressing the forthcoming non-aligned summit, since we believe that Democratic Kampuchea should be allowed to reoccupy its rightful place in the meetings of the movement.

Pakistan has consistently supported the Government of Democratic Kampuchea and would continue to extend its full support to the new coalition government.

The: Let me now turn to Southeast Asia. What is your assessment of ASEAN? Do you consider it a success? Does Pakistan recognise it as a distinct economic and political entity? What are your country's relations with ASEAN as a whole and with its individual members?

Zia: Members of ASEAN have maintained an impressive record of economic growth and achieved a significant degree of political cohesion in the last decade. The organisation can therefore be regarded as an unqualified success in both economic and political terms. Pakistan supports the aims and objectives of ASEAN as a regional organisation and maintains cordial relations with all the ASEAN countries. Our views on key issues, e.g. Afghanistan and Kampuchea, coincide. There is considerable scope for developing closer economic cooperation and increasing trade between Pakistan and the ASEAN countries. This aspect deserves more attention than it has received in the past.

The: You would be aware that since the past few years ASEAN has been holding a regular dialogue with the EEC, U.S., Japan, Australia, New Zealand etc. Would Pakistan respond favourably to an invitation by ASEAN to enter into a regular dialogue with it?

Zia: So far ASEAN has established a regular "dialogue relationship" only with other regional organisations and with some aid donor countries. However, Pakistan would be happy to hold a dialogue with ASEAN if invited to do so.

The: The South Asian countries have been making efforts to establish a forum similar to ASEAN. What in your view are the prospects of an early setting up of a South Asian forum? What are the hurdles being encountered and the prospects of their expeditious resolutions?

Zia: Regional cooperation among the seven countries of South Asia is a relatively new idea. So far we have carried out studies for cooperation in eight agreed areas, namely, agriculture, rural development, telecommunication, meteorology, health, transport, postal services, science and technology. Three meetings at the foreign secretaries' level have been held in this connection. At the last meeting held in Islamabad in August 1982 it was agreed that a meeting of foreign ministers may be held next year. We are still far from the stage of institutionalising cooperation on the ASEAN model. Objective conditions in the two regions differ. The main problems here are the existence of political disputes and the disparity in its sizes and the levels of development of South Asian states. A careful step-by-step approach is more likely to yield results in our region.

The: Now permit me to ask a few questions about the internal situation in Pakistan. Since assuming power in 1977 your government has achieved significant success in terms of political and economic stability. What do you envisage for the future? Would it be possible to maintain this stability over a period of time and what shape would the future political system of Pakistan take? I ask this question because we in ASEAN give a good deal of importance to the stability and security of Pakistan which, like Thailand, faces severe security constraints.

Zia: I am quite optimistic about the economic and political future of Pakistan. We have put the country on sound economic footings and given fresh and vigorous directions to its economic progress and development. During the past five years, our economy has recorded a growth rate of over 6 percent as compared to less than 4 percent in the earlier period of the decade. Similarly, there has been 9 percent increase in the industrial production and 4 percent in agriculture.

Our achievements in the agricultural sector are indeed outstanding. We have reaped record harvests of wheat, rice, cotton and sugar-cane and have become the net exporter of food. There has also been substantial increase in investments. I am confident that the future holds great promise for the economic developments of my country. We will continue making new breakthroughs on the economic front.

As for the future political dispensation of the country, I am committed to hold elections. It is not the aim of my government to prolong the martial law a day longer than necessary. We had to intervene to avert a civil war. We have been endeavouring all along during these past five years to develop democratic institutions. We are moving towards the ultimate objective of establishing a representative government step by step.

We have held elections to local bodies after a lapse of 15 years. These grass-root institutions are now well established and are functioning quite effectively. The Federal Cabinet has been expanded to include more civilian ministers. Advisory councils have been set up in all the provinces to assist and advise the provincial governments in their functions. A similar council, Majlis-i-Shoora, consisting of members from all parts of the country and all walks of life, has been set up at the federal level also. I sincerely hope that this process will continue and contribute positively towards the restoration of a representative government in the country, which is truly democratic, and compatible with Islamic values. We plan to establish an Islamic system of government in Pakistan befitting the Islamic principles and in turn with the Islamic spirit. It will be our endeavour to present before the nation a framework of a true Islamic state by August 14, 1983.

The: Pakistan like Thailand earns its foreign exchange through the export of primary commodities. The international market price of these commodities has been on the decline. Would you recommend the establishment of an organisation of rice exporting countries on the pattern of OPEC to augment their bargaining power?

Zia: You have asked an interesting question but it raises a number of issues:

Rice is not a homogeneous commodity. It is produced in various varieties. The price of each variety is determined by its own supply and demand. As an agricultural commodity, in certain cases, it is subject to the vagaries of the weather. The rice producers have limited control over its production. Consequently the quantity of rice available for export varies from year to year.

I might add that there are very few major rice importing countries. Rice importing countries have been known to become rice exporting countries in the recent past. I would, therefore, think that the question of the formation of an organisation of rice exporting countries deserves extremely careful handling. Instead of serving the interests of the rice exporting countries which I am sure you have in mind, any hasty move in that direction could have an adverse effect.

The: My last question, Mr President, pertains to Thai-Pakistan bilateral relations. In the 1960s relations between our two countries were very close. But over the years due to our regional pre-occupations we seem to have drifted somewhat apart. Thailand has become increasingly involved with ASEAN and Pakistan with the Islamic world. What do you think should be done to bring the two countries closer together in the political, military and economic fields?

Zia: Relations between Pakistan and Thailand have always been cordial. Our departure from SEATO and its eventual dissolution, and the separation of Pakistan's eastern wing have not diminished our interest in Thailand, which we believe occupies a very vital position in an important region of the world. We fully appreciate the positive influence that Thailand has all along exerted in Southeast Asia.

The burden imposed on us by the influx of Afghan refugees has, among other things, helped us better understand the problems faced by your country.

We admire the courage and sagacity of the Thai leadership and the people of Thailand who have successfully continued their march on the road to progress and prosperity in spite of the compulsions generated by a tense politico-strategic environment.

We see eye-to-eye on the question of Kampuchea. My government is grateful for the principled position adopted by the Thai Government on the Afghanistan issue. Our bilateral relations are progressing smoothly in all fields; visits are being exchanged at various levels, a number of Pakistani and Thai students are studying in each other's country, and efforts are being made to further expand trade and economic cooperation.

In view of the problem-free nature of relations between Pakistan and Thailand and the prevailing good-will, I am confident that tremendous scope exists for further strengthening these relations. In this regard I feel that the pride of place should belong to the economic sphere. I would like our people to learn from the entrepreneurial skills of the Thai businessmen. I would also like to see greater collaboration in the field of joint ventures. The only constraints that we have to surmount are those brought about by geography, which I am sure can be overcome with the establishment of adequate shipping arrangements.

DEATH PENALTY ORDERED FOR ANTISTATE ACTS

BK280621 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 27 Sep 82

[Text] The chief martial law administrator has issued Martial Law Regulation No 53 which comes into force at once and shall be deemed to have taken effect on the 5th day of July, 1977. It says no person shall do any act with intent to impair the efficiency or impede the working of or to cause damage to any building, vehicle, machinery, apparatus or other properties used or intended to be used for the purposes of the state or any local authority or any other person.

The regulation further says no person shall do any act with intent to impair the efficiency or impede the working of or to cause damage to any railway, road, canal, bridge, culverts, causeways, port, dockyard, lighthouse, aerodrome or any telegraph, telegraph line or post or any wireless installation. This also applies to any vessel or aircraft or (?railing) stock of the railway as well as to any building or other properties used in connection with the production, distribution or supply or storage of any commodities, any sewage work, mine or factory. Its applicability further extends to any prohibitive place or protected place or any of the defense or satellite installations.

Under the regulation, no one shall commit any offense liable to cause insecurity, fear or despondency amongst the public, including offenses against the state, public tranquillity affecting human body and life, against property or offenses like criminal conspiracy and highway robbery, nor shall abet or help in any manner whatsoever the commission of the said offenses or offense thereof.

The regulation says no person shall, in any manner whatsoever, abet the commission of any of these offenses, aid, help or provide any other assistance including shelter, food, drink, any implement or instrument or device, firearms, explosive or any other type of ammunition to a person who has committed or who intends or is likely to commit any of these acts.

It also says whoever comes to know the presence or whereabouts or any other information regarding such a person shall forthwith inform or convey the said information to the nearest police post or martial law authority.

For the purpose of this regulation, a military court on the basis of police or any other investigation alone may, unless contrary is proved, presume that the accused has committed the offense charged with. Whoever contravenes any provision of this regulation shall be punished with death or such other punishment as has been provided for in Martial Law Order No 5.

OIL MINISTER SPEAKS ON EXPORTS, GULF SECURITY

GF262020 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 25 Sep 82

[Text] Engineer Gharazi, the petroleum minister, accompanied by the minister for finance and economic affairs, Mr Namazi, and the mines and industries minister, Mr Hashemi, who is currently on a visit to Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad to investigate local problems, answered questions by correspondents in Yasuj regarding the security of the oil terminals, the scale of oil exports and the insurance rates of oil tankers and rate of oil production. He said:

With the advent of the Islamic Republic, the safety of the oil terminals and the security of the Persian Gulf was endangered by the United States and has been made safe by Iran. The imposed war was intended to disrupt security for the benefit of the United States but the fortitude of the residents and the employees of the oil industry on Khark Island foiled these plans and in the month of August-September we have been exporting 2 million barrels of oil daily, mostly to make the superpowers understand that the Government of the Islamic Republic is capable of maintaining its own security.

Mr Gharazi then referred to the rates of insurance of oil tankers and said: For a long time, conspiracies were being hatched endangering the stability of the Gulf region and insurance companies suddenly announced that the rates of insurance in the Gulf have [words indistinct] in comparison with the previous rates. This was a great loss which the oil buyers had to endure. In order to combat this plot, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran immediately announced that we would insure the oil tankers in the Gulf, but the imperialist media announced that Iran's insurance is unreliable. Therefore, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran handed over $300 million to the insurance companies for (?reimbursement) and thus we foiled this conspiracy as well.

Our petroleum minister added: I am certain that Britain will reduce the rates of insurance to lower than (?2 percent) and thus we will actively enter the field of international insurance.

In reply to a correspondent's question about measures taken with regard to reconstruction of war-stricken oil installations, he said that work has begun on the reconstruction of what has been damaged during the war and (?this work) will be completed shortly. [Words indistinct] production and the necessary installations, he said that they have returned to their prewar conditions.

COMMANDER EXTOLS TECHNICAL PROWESS OF AIR FORCE

LD252342 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Sep 82

[Text] IRNA reports that the commander of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran described in an interview the success of the air force in the imposed war and also the creative ability of the air force personnel in repairing and manufacturing complicated systems. The commander of the air force referred to the good and advantageous points of the imposed war and said that, due to the round-the-clock efforts of the personnel of this force and the help of other units during the war, considerable progress has been made in connection with repair of aircraft parts, missile systems, radar, antiaircraft guns and communications equipment, whereas during the reign of the Satan, the American advisers would not allow our experts and technicians even to touch the equipment. He added that air force experts have also succeeded in making some of the parts which were difficult to repair. Steps are being taken to build the very complicated parts.

The commander of the air force emphasized in the interview that in spite of all the weapons put at Iraq's disposal by the East and the West, the Iranian Air Force is capable of going into action at any time and of carrying out its mission.

He added that our brave pilots have proved their real supremacy in dogfights and their operations and have established a leading place in the history of air operations.

In this respect, Iraq lost 36 aircraft in the Fath al-Mubin Operation whereas not a single Iranian fighter plane was damaged. In the Bayt al-Moqaddas Operation too, more than 61 Iraqi planes were downed but we only lost 4 planes, 2 of which crashed because of technical problems. These ratios are unprecedented in the history of air battles in the world since in such battles the natural ratio of damage is two to three [as heard].

The commander of the air force, commenting on the MiG-25 planes which have recently been put at the disposal of the blasphemous Iraqi regime, said that this plane, which gained a special reputation in the world has a speed nearly three times the speed of sound and it flies at a height of about 70,000 feet. However, as announced before, on Thursday, 16 September, we succeeded in downing one of these planes near Khark Island for the first time ever.

These are all signs that prove the real supremacy of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran over the Iraqi Air Force.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,060

LD271740 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Sep 82

[Communique No 1,060 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Felicitations of the day of Qorban 'Id ['Id al-Adha] to the imam of the nation and the martyr-nurturing people of Iran. May the day of unity of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces be blessed, a holy unity which has been realized by adhering to the principle of the vice regency of the chief theologian [velayat-e faqih] and has gained the greatest victories for the Muslim and struggling nation of Iran.

During the past 24 hours the victorious combatants of the army of monotheism stationed in the western operational region returned the enemy's fire and inflicted considerable damage and casualties on it. On all fronts in this region, exchange of fire continued sporadically; in Meymak, Qasr-e Shirin and Marivan, the fire was more intense.

The forces of Islam opened heavy-weapon fire and stopped enemy activities in (Valyabeh) and Khanom-e Shaykhan and prevented the movement of Iraqi military personnel.

Damage inflicted on the enemy on the western fronts includes the destruction of two personnel carriers, one machinegun and a number of individual and collective entrenchments; a group of Saddam's soldiers were also killed or wounded in these operations.

In the southern operational region, the Islamic forces continued pounding enemy positions and entrenchments. In this region, our combatants maintained their supremacy of fire and silenced the Saddamists' artillery fire, disrupted the activities of the enemy forces' engineering units, which were trying to extend their earthworks and dig trenches and canals, and destroyed part of the Iraqi forces' fortifications.

Yesterday the residential districts of Abadan came under the Saddamist criminals' heavy long-range artillery fire. Fire started in several parts of the town, martyring four of our compatriots and wounding seven others.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRNA REPORTS IRAQI LOSSES IN SOUTHERN REGION

LD272340 Tehran IRNA in English 1949 GMT 27 Sep 82

[Text] Ahvaz, Sep. 27, IRNA -- More than 800 Iraqi soldiers have been killed and 350 others wounded in the southern region of the Arvand River during the past six months, said the commander of a mortar launching unit of the Islamic revolutionary forces of Abadan on Monday.

Talking to IRNA here, the commander added that these combatants have also destroyed five Iraqi tanks, five 106-mm guns, 35 munitions loaded vehicles, 19 command jeeps, 15 observation masts, 20 personnel carrying vehicles, 32 RPG-7s, 40 machine guns, 69 mortar launchers 20 loaders, seven anti-aircraft artillery pieces, 25 command posts and more than 890 bunkers and watch posts in the southern Iraqi region of Saybah, Sayhan, Chahar-Bagh, Kharm al-Bahriyah and Ziadiyeh on the southern bank of the Arvand Rud.

POW'S DEMONSTRATE AGAINST IRAQI REGIME

LD262312 Tehran IRNA in English 1930 GMT 26 Sep 82

[Text] Tehran, Sept 26, IRNA -- Thousands of Iraqi POWs, deportees and Iraqi Muslim mujahidin marched in the streets of Tehran this morning and called for the overthrow of the Iraqi regime.

The marchers, who gathered in front of the Majlis, were also accompanied by a large number of people of Tehran and refugees from the war-stricken areas. The demonstration was part of the special ceremonies being held during the war week. The fifth day of this week is called the "Day of Islamic Revolution of Iraq."

An Iraqi lieutenant, Abu Ahmad, from Batallion 33 of Brigade 60 of the Iraqi Army, speaking to the crowd of behalf of the Iraqi POWs, praised the humane treatment extended to the Iraqi POWs by the Iranians and called on the Iraqi Muslim mujahidin and Iraqi people to rise and overthrow the aggressor regime of Iraq.

The interesting feature of the demonstration was the presence of a number of Iraqi POWs who all looked happy and were in good health.

The demonstrators who were chanting slogans against the Iraqi and Zionist regimes, further more expressed deploration of the decision made in the recent summit conference of the Arab leaders in Fes, Morocco, and stressed that the dignity of Muslims could only be restored through arms and not conferences such as Fes.

The crowd also condemned crimes of U.S. imperialism and international Zionism against Muslims.

An Iraqi religious personality, addressing the crowd, called for the unity of all Muslims to counter the crimes of the U.S. He also condemned the savage massacre of the Palestinians in the refugee camps of West Beirut by the Zionist regime.

The Majlis deputy from Saveh, Central Province, Hojjat ol-Eslam Movahedi Savaji, addressed the demonstrators and referring to the Iraqi imposed war said that the people of Iran will continue to fight the Iraqi regime until it achieves final victory and regains its legitimate rights.

At the end of the demonstration a five point resolution was read in which it was stressed that they would exact revenge on the mercenary regimes of the region and that of Saudi Arabia in particular.

Similar demonstrations were held in various provincial cities including Ahvaz, Arak and Yazd. The Iraqi deportees and POWs took part in these demonstrations.

GUARDS DISCOVER TWO TUDEH SAFEHOUSES IN SARI

GF271108 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 13 Sep 82 p 4

[Text] Sari: Two safehouses belonging to the Tudeh Party minigroup were discovered on Qaren Avenue in Sari by the revolution guards. More than two truckfuls of various books, photographs of the important members of the party and recorded tapes were discovered and confiscated by the revolution guards.

535 PRISONERS TO BE FREED UNDER AMNESTY

LD271130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Sep 82

[Text] According to IRNA, on the occasion of the auspicious 'Id al-Adha, on the suggestion of the commission of pardon and mercy which has been approved by Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, 465 persons convicted by the Islamic Revolution Courts and 70 persons convicted by the Justice Ministry courts have been given amnesty and will be released on 'Id al-Adha.

NVOI: EXPOSE 'PSEUDOCLERGY,' REVOLUTION'S FOES

TA241923 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 24 September carried a commentary, entitled "The Superficial Pseudoclergy Must Be Dispossessed." It said one of the common methods used by all the counterrevolutionary forces and the elements of imperialism in promoting the overthrow of the Islamic Republic of Iran and trampling on the gains of our nation's revolution is the creation of discord, division and a climate of discontent.

Difference in the upper echelons of the Islamic government is a reflection of the difference among the clergy in our society. The clergy in our society have never looked upon the acute problems of society in the same way. Even in the upper echelons of the clergy, there are persons who accept Islam within its religious framework only.

In the past, this faction of the clergy always supported the existing system. This sort of clergy have rightly been called court preachers and superficial pseudoclergy. They consider every measure for the benefit of the millions-strong masses as contrary to Islamic standards, and stick the Marxist label on every popular measure based on the principles of Islam of 'Ali.

Should these pseudoclergy be investigated one would see that the majority of these gentlemen are either landowners and capitalists or liberals and property owners. In this very plot by Qotbzadeh, we witnessed the features of some of the pseudoclergy. One of the aims of the counterrevolution and world-devouring America in Islamic countries is to exploit this faction of superficial pseudoclergy whose task is both to sow discord and division in the upper echelons of the Islamic government and to act as a divisive factor between the realistic clergy and all the true revolutionary forces.

Without identifying these pseudoclergy who are the foes of the revolution, and without revealing their true faces, the implementation of every fundamental measure by the Islamic government will face various problems, subversions and plots, as has been the case so far.